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* TOPSIDE *

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SCPTICISM

by E. B. Smith.

Once upon a time there was a darky who stood in court accused of stealing chickens. The farmer, his son and the hired man all testified that they had seen him steal the chickens. After hearing the evidence the judge said, "Defendant, what have you to say for yourself?" The darky just grinned and said, "Boss, ah can produce twice as many witnesses what DENW'T see no steal those chickens!"

Unfortunately, this is typical of much of the thinking with respect to the flying saucers. Healthy scepticism is good, but this kind of scepticism is ridiculous. Non-awareness is NOT synonymous with non-existence, and disbelief in something does not in any way detract from its reality. No one can create a fact by making a statement, and no one can get rid of a fact by denying it.

Statistically many more people have seen flying saucers than atom bombs, but the bomb information comes glided with authority while the flying saucer information comes draped in scepticism. We do not ordinarily think to question the basic facts upon which the information is based, but form our opinions more on the way in which the information comes to us. We live our daily lives so very much under the shadow of Authority that we instinctively attribute to Authority an omniscience which it really does not possess, and take the easier way of succumbing to its dictates than thinking for ourselves. A fact is none the less a fact through having been stated by a seedy waterfront character or a suave diplomat of international reputation. It is we, and we alone, who must decide for ourselves what is or is not fact; and we are responsible to ourselves for our decision.

"Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good." No one can prove without investigation, and investigation takes time and effort; often more than we are prepared to put forth. If we are not prepared to make the necessary effort to carry out an adequate investigation, are we really entitled to have our opinions taken seriously? In the absence of personal investigation, it is tempting and easy to accept Authority for proof, but we are really fooling ourselves when we do this, since we can never really KNOW. Better that we should keep our minds, and seize on the individual facts as they come, and investigate well. We have enough to satisfy our own minds, and our own consciences.

DID MARS INVADE US

LONDON, Feb. 9: (Reuters) - A Soviet scientist believes earth has been visited by space travellers from other planets, and thinks they may have had a part in the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The scientist was identified by Tass news agency only as physicist-mathematician M. Agrest, writing in the Literary Gazette. He says he believes a gigantic space ship approached the earth from space at a speed close to light, and went into orbit while its occupants studied the earth.

They landed, possibly in the region of the Baalbek Terrace, a platform built of huge stone slabs in the Middle Eastern Antilebanon mountains which has defied explanation.

Agrest thinks the platform is part of the remains of a launching platform built by the space travellers, or something they put up to commemorate their visit.

REMAINS OF MISSILE

He adds that glass-like substances known as tektites, found in the Libyan desert and containing radioactive isotopes of aluminum and beryllium, may have been the remains of some missile.

He notes previous evidence that the tektites - for which there is no explanation - were formed not less than 1,000,000 years ago and under conditions of high temperatures and powerful radiation. He says the description of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah given in the Bible could not help attracting the attention of modern men familiar with nuclear physics.

"In modern language this legend says that people were advised to leave the area of the future explosion, not to linger in the open, not to watch the blast. Those of the fugitives who looked back lost their eyesight and perished."

WARNS OF BLAST

His theory is that the space travellers could have exploded their surplus nuclear fuel before leaving earth, after warning the local population in advance so they would not die in the atomic blast.

Another of his theories is that during the space travellers' stay on earth, they tried to convey their knowledge to the people, but because of the extremely low cultural and technical level of human society of that period, "it was most difficult to make use of this knowledge".

"Only some astronomic information was the exception, since even most primitive tribes used to find their bearings by the stars."

OPTIMA, UFO SIGHTING

by J.R. Buchanan

I was preparing to leave a social function about 0130 a.m. on February 14th. I had brought the car around to the door and was patiently awaiting my wife's arrival when my attention was drawn to a small bright light in the western sky. The night was dark and the moon almost completely obscured by an overcast which the Meteorological Office subsequently reported was at an altitude of approximately 12,000 feet.

The light appeared to be approaching quite rapidly but it suddenly stopped, hesitated, seeming to oscillate gently, and then darted off at a sharp angle to its original course. While moving rapidly the light was white and quite brilliant. Its colour and intensity seemed to vary with its rate of motion subsiding to a dim yellow, like a dying flashlight, when hovering.

Meanwhile, my wife arrived and we watched together for almost five minutes while the light, continuing its erratic gyrations, gradually gained height and disappeared into the overcast.

This is not reported for its value as an unusual sighting. Its chief interest to me was the reaction of those who, seeing us skygazing, enquired what we were looking at. On pointing out the monitor, as I assume it to have been, their immediate response was, "Its probably an aircraft". "But," we pointed out, "there is no sound and no sign of navigation lights."

At this point they seemed to lose all interest. Some walked away shaking their heads and I can only guess what they were mentally doing to my reputation.

SUBUD

by Mrs. A.H. Hardy

Growing interest in Subud, originally introduced to members of the Flying Saucer Club by the writer, by means of short talks and distribution of literature, resulted in a special meeting on February 3rd, 8:30 p.m., at the home of Mr. W.B. Smith. Among those present were members of the Club and friends of theirs, totalling 17.

Mr. Arthur Bridge, President, introduced our guest, Mr. Belair Spruit who had received the contact in 1957 at Coombe Springs, England. First Mr. Spruit played a L.P. record entitled "What is Subud", covering an interview of Mr. J.G. Bennett by Mr. Steve Allen, celebrated Radio and TV star. At the subsequent Open Forum, he kindly answered many questions from the floor. A vote of thanks was extended by the President to Mr. Spruit for his enlightening exposition of the subject, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Smith for their kind hospitality.

Refreshments were served, and the lively discussion and visit among those present extended almost until midnight. Hopes were expressed that groups be formed in Ottawa in the near future.

(Subud is an "action" for inner-development which originated in Indonesia and which was introduced to the Western World in 1957 by Mr. J.G. Bennett.

noted scientist, world traveller, and philosopher, EDITOR).

"MYSTERY OBJECTS OVER ALASKA"

Ottawa "Journal", Feb. 17, 1960

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - A spokesman for the North American Air Defence Command here confirmed Tuesday that unidentified flying objects were observed in the skies over Alaska early Monday morning.

The spokesman said two objects were seen moving in opposite directions across Alaska.

One object produced a flash which was assumed to have been an explosion. A search is being made."

FLYING SAUCERS

by Mrs. A.M. Hardy

TV Program "CONTACT", Tuesday, February 16, 1960, 7:30 p.m. over CBOT Channel 4.

"CONTACT" takes off into outer space in search of Flying Saucers - with these words the program opened, showing at the same time a large, mysterious object, somewhat resembling in shape a ten-gallon hat, but luminous, oscillating and rotating, while travelling through the sky. This film was taken by a News Camera man in Los Angeles, under quite remarkable circumstances. Just after reloading his camera, he happened to look up and beheld a strange large object in the sky; immediately he started his camera and thus obtained this wonderful film.

Then a number of highly respected individuals were interviewed. They gave their own accounts of sightings of UFO's in the Ottawa area. First, a gentleman reported that, while travelling on a highway in Ottawa West, he was amazed to hear his car radio beginning to play music, which was somewhat of a shock to him since it was not turned on and the antenna disconnected. Next, his car stalled and the lights went out. He got out and saw a silvery disc, 8" in diameter, about 15 ft. in front of his car and at a height of some 15 ft. above the ground. It suddenly took off at a 45 degree angle and disappeared within seconds, leaving him rather badly shaken. Thus, from complete indifference, he turned into an ardent seeker of knowledge.

Secondly, two ladies, sister, reported an entirely different, but likewise amazing sighting, concerning a 3½ hour observation of a brilliant object, stationary, at great height. It was large and pulsating, changing colours from red to green and white. After a time, a smaller object dropped off sharply, stayed below for a while, returned into the larger one, took off again at a tangent upwards to the right and eventually returned again. The larger craft, however, showed no sign of increase or decrease in size, during these manoeuvres. After some 3½ hours' observation, it disappeared instantaneously. While all stars, in the meantime, moved on in the Heavens, the main object remained stationary.

Thirdly, a gentleman told of two sightings, one of a huge, yellowish-white coloured luminous disc, which travelled across the sky and then disappeared; the second sighting was similar to the first, but there were two objects in this case, one following the other.

Next Mr. W. B. Smith, Senior Engineer of the Radio Regulations Engineering Division, Dept. of Transport, and "STAR" member of the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club, was interviewed. He disclosed that his interest in UFO's dates back to 1950 when a number of sensational sightings all over the globe received a great deal of news coverage. He said that a variety of possible explanations could be found for some 85% of phenomena in the Heavens, such as brighter planets, certain atmospheric conditions, jets, weather balloons, birds in flight, etc., some 15% of sightings defied explanation and could be taken for mysterious objects. The latter he divided roughly into three categories:

- 1) small objects, 4" to 18" in diameter
- 2) bell shaped objects, 35' to 150' in diameter, with a lower skirt, a cabin with a little light on top, and what appears to be landing gear underneath,
- 3) cigar shaped objects of abnormal size, but rarely observed.

There seemed to be a similarity in pattery from observation all over the world, he said.

The Royal Canadian Air Force had been invited to comment, but declined to commit themselves either one way or the other. Several members of the Canadian Government, National Research Council, and a Psychologist of the Ottawa University, were interviewed and gave accounts of their conception, proving, in general, that the tendency of outraged scorn and contemptuous ridicule of some 10 years ago, has undergone a substantial change towards a more tolerant and even a more curious attitude. The Radar tracking of the Washington, D.C., sighting may have been responsible, in part, for this change of attitude. The majority of scientists agreed with Mr. W.B. Smith's statement that approximately 85% of the sightings could be explained, while the remaining 15% kept them wondering.

The positive response during a public poll was equally gratifying. The majority of the individuals questioned looked upon the question of UFO's and communication with other planets and worlds with quite an open mind, some even stating that nothing could surprise them any more in these exciting days and that they were ready to believe anything. All in all, it was a very successful program and, for many, an enlightening experience.

BOOK REVIEW

by W. Riddell

New Worlds Beyond the Atom (De La Warr)

The book presents a searching in the realm of Mind and Matter describing fascinating research work carried out in the last decade by the

Delawarr Laboratories, Oxford, work which has revealed new forms of radiation unknown to science.

The discoveries are a step away from the gross materialism, which still fetters scientific thought, towards a new standpoint bridging the world of matter and new worlds of subtle influences. They are the beginnings of a fresh and highly important branch of science.

They throw light on some of the enigmas of Physics and Biology, such as the origin of shapes and forms in nature, the means whereby vital energy passes to living things, and the mystery of the creation of matter out of an apparent void.

They are also likely to affect our daily lives in a variety of ways. Instruments have been invented which make use of these radiations for diagnosis and therapy, the stimulation of the growth of crops and the destruction of pests by a broadcasting technique, the detection of metals and minerals, and the analysis of foods and other substances. A camera which has undergone exhaustive tests is able to photograph the flower which will grow from a seed, and the clinical condition of a patient who may be hundreds of miles distant.

Much interest has been generated and to satisfy this a quarterly journal is published titled "Mind and Matter", which aims at disseminating knowledge to the greater advantage of mankind. Annual subscription \$4.50, Raleigh Park Road, Oxford, England.